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**THURSDAY, MAY 1 2014**

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# INPORTNEWS

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**COMPUTERS:** St. Catharines web service provider marks 20th year

## Vaxxine a survivor of the early days of Internet

**JULIE JOGAM/QUI**  
AGENCY NIAGARA  
From left, Brad Bell, vice-president, technology, Margaret Gulic, office manager, Derek McCarthy, Becky McCarthy and owner Dave McCarthy with Rony, a boxer owned by Derek McCarthy, at the Vaxxine office on Grantham Ave. in St. Catharines. Vaxxine is celebrating its 20th anniversary as an Internet provider.



**DON FRASER**  
QMI Agency Niagara

Vaxxine began as a 1980s start-up firm that serviced and programmed Vax mini-computers.

Nearly 30 years later, it stands now as Niagara's largest survivor of the early local Internet service providers.

Owner Dave McCarthy said a turning point for Vaxxine Computer Systems came in 1994, when he was a Brock University computer science professor and decided to get an Internet connection for his staff.

"Ultimately, I thought, 'maybe people at large would like this Internet thing too,'" said McCarthy. "So we put the structure in place to make it available to consumers."

Fast-forward two decades

to 2014, and the 16-employee firm remains a healthy and locally based ISP firm.

It's partly because the 80 Grantham Ave. S. company has long done a host of Internet and computer services. Its other offerings include virus cleaning, web marketing and domain names.

McCarthy, 64, said that from the beginning, "we weren't" just an Internet company.

"It is maybe 60% of our business today, but it wasn't the only bed in which we laid down," he said. "So if there were some ups and downs, there were still other things we were doing that were useful to us."

See D06S on Page 2

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## LOCAL NEWS

■ FUNDRAISER: Y swim raises money to send children to camp

## Kids helping kids



RAY SPITERI/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Breanna Lewis supervises three-year-old Derek MacDonald in the swimming pool at the Niagara Falls YMCA on Saturday.

■ EXHIBIT: Sumi e and cyanotypes

## Artist spreads her wings

MELISSA MANGELSEN  
Inport News Staff

Artist Anne Ursino is "spreading her wings" at the Arts Place Gallery in Port Colborne until June 1.

In five decades of practising art, she has participated in group shows and juried exhibits that allowed her to expose her art and feel a sense of satisfaction.

"Spreading My Wings marks a profound moment in my art practice," said Ursino, who is originally from St. Catharines. "It's my first solo exhibition and it's all because of the Arts Place. They have provided me the place to show my work and this is a dream come true

for me."

The exhibit reflects her most recent work, which was inspired by nature, music and her garden.

She began painting in oils and focused on realism as a teenager. She continued painting into her 30s before becoming involved in hand weaving on three looms.

In the late 1980s, Ursino's journey took her to Brock University where she completed her undergraduate degree with a combined major in visual arts and women's studies.

"I graduated from that in 1993, which was really special because my daughter and I graduated at the same time,"

she added.

Since graduating, she has participated in many workshops and classes and is a member of the Pelham Art Association and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Pumphouse Gallery.

She has devoted many hours learning the art of Sumi e and earned her red seal from the Canadian Sumi e Society.

Her journey as an artist has moved from realism to abstraction, through wet and dry mediums including cyanotypes, oils, water colours, ink and acrylics with textiles, fibre and threads.

"Spreading My Wings will have 50 of her paintings on display, including oils depict-

RAY SPITERI  
QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

It's always nice to see people raising money to help less fortunate children. But when it's kids helping kids, it's just a little extra special.

That's what happened at four YMCAs across Niagara last Saturday.

Kids at YMCAs in Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Port Colborne and Grimsby Participated in the ninth annual Frank and Friends Swim for Strong Kids.

The children, supervised by aquatic coordinators, swam a collective 200 kilometres.

The children raised money through pledges, which will help kids who face financial barriers to be able to attend future YMCA camps.

"The kids don't even know they're being sponsored, which is the way it should be. They're just like any other kids at the Y.

They'll go and swim," said the event's namesake, Frank Coy.

"Their parents take them to the Y to swim in this event and they think they're doing it for other kids less fortunate. They don't even know they're being subsidized."

Coy, who is from St. Catharines, started the event eight years ago by swimming 10 kilometres every year to raise cash for YMCA programs. At that time, it was called YMCA's Partners with Youth, he said.

A regular swimmer at the YMCA, he recognized the importance of providing every child an equal opportunity to enjoy the Y's programs.

"I've always been partial to kids programs," said Coy. He said the event started in an "odd way."

"I was swimming lengths at the Y and we have an hour, hour-and-a-half to swim lengths and I always

thought, 'I'd like to really get in and swim a long distance' and someone said, 'Why don't you check with the Y, maybe as a fundraiser, they'd give you your own lane and let you do it.'"

After speaking with Y officials, the plan started to take shape.

"I said, 'I'd like to swim a 10K swim. I'll raise money for Partners with Youth. I'd like a dedicated lane and people to count lengths for me and I think I can raise quite a bit of money.'"

"The first year, I think we raised \$4,000. And then it went to \$6,000 and then one year we raised \$12,000. We've raised over \$60,000 in the eight years."

Coy said he's glad to see the event continue to grow, and next year he hopes to add the YMCA in Welland into the mix.

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Twitter: @RaySpiteri



ing flowers from her garden, collages from her Venus Series in mixed media, Sumi e paintings and abstract acrylic works.

She will hold her artist's reception May 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the gallery located at 714 King St. For more information call 905-634-9060.

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MELISSA MANGELSEN/INPORT NEWS STAFF

Anne Ursino will have her paintings on display at the Arts Place Gallery in Port Colborne until June 1. This is her first solo exhibition which she has entitled Spreading My Wings.

# INPORT NEWS

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## Fascists in Ukraine bear watching

I know I can sometimes be a sarcastic cuss in my columns. I can find a snappy turn of phrase or fire off a joke at just about anything.

Except this. There is nothing funny about this. Over the weekend, the *Daily Mail* in the U.K. published a story about the goings-on in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk, one of the areas where pro-Russian separatists have seized control. And it has managed to make an already awful situation seem truly horrifying.

Everything about what's going on in Ukraine should give you chills.

The Russian expansion into a sovereign nation won't end well for anyone. There is no positive outcome for the citizens of Ukraine, nor for the people of Russia.

Innocent citizens in both countries will suffer while Russian President Vladimir Putin plays his game to build his fantasy empire — a game where the rules are written in blood.

As tense as the situation is, as dire as the consequences could be for the region and the world, developments in Donetsk make it all the worse.

According to the *Daily Mail* story, pro-Russian thugs — their faces hidden behind ski masks — handed out leaflets to people leaving a Donetsk synagogue that declared all Jews were to be the region and the world, developments in Donetsk make it all the worse.

They are being told to turn in their passports to have them stamped with a "declaration of faith," and to hand over documents showing what property they own.

Failure to comply by May 3, according to the leaflet, means destruction and seizure of property.

The leader of the Donetsk junta, Denis Pushilin, denies his organization had anything to do with the leaflets. The signatories of the group's leaders on the leaflets are, he said, probably by pro-Ukrainian groups anxious to discredit the Russian separatists.

The rabbi of the congregation that was targeted is reportedly saying he is convinced the leaflets were some manner of hoax and is appealing for calm.

If that is the case, I don't know what the punchline is. I have a very hard time taking Pushilin at his word. Since Russian incursions into Ukraine began, the week justifications, half-truths and spin from Moscow have been hard pills to swallow. It seems as likely as not, to me at least, that the leaflets are the work of Pushilin's group or a rogue faction of pro-Russian separatists.

Although a hoax perpetrated by Ukrainians appears unlikely — as they said in Rome, "Cui Bono?" — it is worth noting that anti-Semitism is a common feature of more extreme brands of Russian and Ukrainian nationalism.

When the previous pro-Moscow government in Kiev was overthrown, for example, far-right Ukrainian groups were blamed for attacks on Jews and synagogues.

See GRANT RANT on Page 5

# The people are the story of poverty

There's a woman who can't read or write. Another who has a degree in nursing. And a guy with two college diplomas.

There's a double-transplant recipient. A cancer survivor. A guy born with cerebral palsy. And a former psychiatric patient and alcoholic.

There's a husband and wife with a 15-month-old son. A 2½-year-old boy who breathes through a hole in his throat. And a six-year-old boy who collects stuffed animals and plans on living with his mother forever.

There's a writer. A woman who works the night shift at a gas station. And a single mom who works four days a week in a factory. People who might otherwise have nothing in common, all sharing one life event: Poverty.

Together, they are the faces of poverty. This year, QMI Agency Niagara will take an exhaustive look at the issue of poverty. We will pull it apart, see how it works, maybe change a few things, and hopefully put it back together better than it was before.

This is just the beginning. A scratch-the-surface start that will mark the spots to dig deeper, more explorative holes later on.

For the time being, poverty isn't only about income, but it is always about income. The province uses the LIM — Low Income Measure — to classify people by income and thereby measure poverty. A family of four making below \$18,900 after taxes is poor; a single person, below \$13,460, is poor.

In Niagara, based on those incomes 13.6% of the population lives in poverty. Consider, too, that 78% of people in Niagara who live in poverty also work full-time.

Poverty is complicated. There isn't just one way into it. And there isn't just one way out.

And so we begin at its heart — with some

of the people who live it every day.

People like Annie Nicita of Niagara Falls. At 52, she's going back to school to earn her Grade 12 diploma. She has been teased because she can't read or write. "And I don't think that's right," she says with schoolyard defiance.

There's a 34-year-old Patrick Colley. When he was born, his parents were told he'd never walk or talk. He did both. He lives independently in the Falls, and gets teary-eyed expressing his gratitude toward the people who've helped him along the way.

"What my life has taught me is that there's no shame in asking for help," he says.

Paul Warren, 27, comes to Project SHARE in St. Catharines for medical supplies. In one hand, and 21/2-year-old Dominic in the other. "He's pretty small," says Paul.

Dominic was born premature, at 23 weeks, is tube fed and breathes through a tracheostomy.

Both Anne Reilly, 42, feels invisible. She was working part-time as a nurse and had just bought her dream home in the Falls when she was in a car accident. Her insurance wasn't enough to cover her wages, and she had no benefits at all. In a desperate attempt to pay bills, she lost all her savings, her RSPs, her parents left her house.

Cheryl Kedwards, 37, worked 30 years for the same company and then was diagnosed with cancer. David Duquette, 56, understands the art of using cardboard and newspapers to keep warm on the street. Fifty-eight-year-old Norma Kirby of Welland is an alcoholic and former psychiatric patient. And even at 54, Lorraine Brown has hopes of getting off Ontario Works — for good. They all volunteer at the Hope Centre in Welland.

Ron Haymes, 41, and Shireen McKenzie, 40, every time they sit on a train, they will have to move far away from Welland to find a good job. They are both on assistance

and live in what Ron calls a "vicious cycle" of a few hundred dollars a month.

Lisa Spies, 60, is legally blind and lives on ODSP. She has a degree from Brock, and a degree in education from the University of Western Ontario in special education. She has worked as a teacher, served in the constituency office of a local MP and has written for the Welland Tribune. She went on assistance only after she was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis and is scared the government will cut her income.

Joel Perusse, 27, of St. Catharines has two diplomas, the most recent in journalism from Niagara College. He works part-time at a grocery store and full-time at Tim Hortons. "I have two jobs. I just don't have a good-paying career," he says.

Ron Weston, 46, of Ridgeway is a journeyman electrician who has lived on ODSP since he had a pancreas and kidney transplant in 2013.

In 2008, Sharlene Stafford's husband died. After that, life as she knew it crumbled around her: the roof leaked through the kitchen, the basement wall collapsed, she was diagnosed with glaucoma and her work contract was not renewed. She keeps herself above water these days as a tax preparer.

Irene Mott, 63, and Sherry, 39, both of St. Catharines are among a growing demographic of women who come to the food bank at Community Care. Older women plunged into poverty after the death of a husband, or divorce.

And finally, there's 36-year-old Tanya Willick. She's a single mom who works minimum wage at St. Catharines factory. She buys groceries every other week to have enough food for her son, then eats leftovers and drinks pop the week's with his father.

And so, we start with 18 people. Eighteen different lives, different reasons for being poor, different poverty stories. One shared life circumstance.

cheryl@inportnews.ca

## readers' views

### BRING US GO

The support around GO trains. With continuous improvement and repair of the transportation's necessity, transportation by car is a nightmare. The cost of an upgraded rail system is far less than new roads and continual stop and driving. This applies to tourists, commuters and commercial transport, which is also a real driver of the provincial economy. Interurban bus transportation in the Golden Horseshoe is another need as it would be the necessary linkage to the rail system.

IAN AND MEGAN MCWEAN  
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

### WHAT ABOUT GUN CONTROL?

The bill passed in Kansas that allows

citizens to openly carry firearms and nullify any gun restrictions made by a county or city (except for banning firearms in a public building) is ludicrous. This bill also prevents cities or counties from putting restrictions on the sale of guns and transportation of guns. I still cannot believe after all the tragedies that have occurred by people misusing firearms in the U.S., they put fewer restrictions on firearms. There have been lots of talk about better gun restriction laws in the U.S., but the government has done nothing about it. In fact, they have been countering the public's demand for new law. How many tragedies do we have to suffer before something is actually done

MATT BROWN  
ST. CATHARINES

**WE NEED GO TRAIN SERVICE TO NIAGARA**

My husband is a commuter and misses the daily trek to Mississauga. Not only will the GO train be an easier commute for him, but will cause less pollution, less QEW congestion and will bring more people to live in Niagara, thereby enhancing our economy. We need GO train service to Niagara as soon as possible.

LORIE TOKITA  
ST. CATHARINES

Continued on Page 5

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## ■ readers' views

# From Page 4 WELLAND CANAL NOT THE PROBLEM

The recent headline of Andrea Horwath promising all-day GO to Niagara is misleading and inaccurate. If her party or for that matter any other party elected would try to deal with the train issue they would soon discover a couple of basic problems. The track is owned and used by CN and they run a lot of freight trains. It's their track to decide who runs on it, not Andrea's. There would be a fee and time slotted for these trains. This will not happen soon. As for the minister's comments to the mayor of Niagara Falls, CN will not sell the line and the Welland Canal is not a problem. Perhaps the real reason we will not get GO is the recent by-election that elected an NDP member.

KEVIN ARGUE  
JORDAN

## WHY THE INCREASE?

Over the past few weeks gasoline prices in Niagara have increased about 15 cents per litre. Can anyone explain this? The international petrochemical companies are supposedly managed at very professional levels. Or are they? What other products vary in price so much and so often? Is this a case of gross mismanagement or perhaps just simple greed? Maybe it's mismanagement masquerading as greed. Why is there no effort by that industry to better manage its affairs and ensure more stability in the cost of gasoline? There can be simply no excuse.

RICHARD BAKER  
ST CATHARINES

## CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELVES

For many years I have listened to the great debate over which animal is our

closest evolutionary relative. Most often, the chimpanzee is afforded this dubious honour. I no longer believe this to be true. Considering the amount of garbage strewn along local roadways, I am now convinced our closest evolutionary relative is the pig.

RAY ROBINSON  
THOROLD

## MORE GO SUPPORT

Year-round GO Train service to Niagara has been soundly debated for some time, but nothing has happened. Other communities around Lake Ontario benefit from this service, but not as yet Niagara. If this public service was made from Niagara through to Toronto, many of us here would use it, rather than drive the dreaded QEW. Can we expect some action from politicians at this?

There has been a lot of talk about using public services rather than driving, but the money doesn't always follow the talk.

GAIL BENJAFIELD  
ST. CATHARINES

## GAS AND HYDRO RATES

It seems like we are exporting our natural gas to another country and now that we're running short, we have to go and buy it for a higher rate. Now we have turbines. In the dead heat of summer when we need them the most, there's no wind so they're absolutely useless. They don't even produce any shade. We do not need the electricity so we pay another country to take it. I can take some, no charge, and leave some lights on for a change.

JOSEPH FRANK  
WELLAND

# History warns world against complacency

From Page 4

Regardless of who is ultimately to blame, it has the unmistakable stench of fascism to it.

History furnishes no examples where such actions are not followed by violence directed at Jews, simply for being Jewish.

What forces are in place in Donetsk to prevent Jews from being targeted? Are there any at all? Is there any reason whatsoever that the world watching the situation in Ukraine should just shrug and say, "Oh well, it's just a hoax?"

History provides a useful example here as well.

In the 1930s, when the

Final Solution was well and truly underway in Germany, word started to get out. Not the full extent of the horror, but it was enough to know something was terribly wrong.

The reaction from the West was largely one of willful ignorance.

We cannot afford such complacency again.

Even as diplomatic efforts are underway to try to defuse the situation in Ukraine, a close eye should be kept on places like Donetsk. And we ought to be ready to act if we must.

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## ■ NIAGARA REGION

# Pelham mayor not getting answers from NPCA

**ROB HOULE**  
QMI Agency Niagara

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn said he was "disheartened" to hear he would not be getting all the information he requested from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority regarding a recent land deal.

Augustyn had requested authority CAO Tony D'Amario forward him a copy of a map, the land appraisal and the purchase agreement for 15 acres of the former Easter Seals camp on Lakeshore Rd. in Wainfleet. The NPCA recently announced it had purchased a portion of the former camp from Lakewood Beach Properties for \$1.975 million. In addition to the purchase price, the Township of Wainfleet agreed to waive a requirement the developer donate a portion

of his remaining 39 acres or cash in lieu for parkland dedication. The cash in lieu was estimated at \$500,000.

During a discussion pertaining to the minutes of the NPCA's board of directors meeting from March 19 at Niagara Region's public works committee meeting Tuesday, Augustyn offered thanks to board chair regional Councillor Bruce Timms and vice-chair Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs, for having been forwarded the map, but asked when he could expect a copy of the legal agreement and the appraisal. Timms, who is not a member of the public works committee but nevertheless attended the meeting, said that information would not be coming.

"We're pleased to provide some information in terms of

the mapping," Timms said. "(But) we have legal advice that it really is not the position of the board to divulge publicly the terms of the sale and the agreement with the vendor. We do want to disclose as much as we can about how we use the money that the Region has given to the conservation authority over the last six years to our acquisition fund."

Timms said the land acquisition along Lake Erie involves payment over two years, with 50% of the purchase price paid in 2014, and the balance to be paid in 2015. Timms added there is no payment of interest involved.

"We're not at this point, according to our legal advice, prepared to share the entire terms of the agreement."

Timms says any further disclosure would have to first be discussed by NPCA board members.

Niagara Region will contribute almost \$7.3 million to the NPCA's 2014 budget, including \$200,000 to a land acquisition fund, as it has done annually.

Augustyn said he was "disheartened" by Timms' response, but will continue the seek answers.

"I think it's important for us to recognize who we work for. We work for the public," Augustyn said, adding it's important purchases made with public dollars are made public.

"That's where I'm coming from... and I'm going to keep trying to get this information," Timms said. The NPCA values the property as good value to the public but reiterated the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority "is a creature of the province, a partner of our municipalities."

Welland County, George Marshall said he was concerned by Timms' response.

"I thought the release of the agreement would go a long way in shedding light on the situation and maybe this issue would go away," Marshall said. "But as soon as you don't want to share, you don't want to play nice, even though it's regional dollars through our taxpayers — we can't even speak to it by the sounds of things."

St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan said he was confused by some of the answers coming from the Region's appointees to the NPCA board.

"I'm not sure anymore who the NPCA is really responsible to, whether it's the province, the (Ministry of Natural Resources) cabinet minister, whether it's this council," McMullan said. "More and more we're learning they're not responsible to this council. I agree with Coun. Augustyn and Coun. Marshall. I think we should have more accountability than what we're seeing evidenced today."

McMullan said the Niagara Region previously rejected the opportunity in 2012 to purchase 26 acres of the former Easter Seals camp and that the NPCA has found a "back door way to get the deal done."

"I think that's unfortunate... and if that's not the case, they should be more transparent."

McMullan said he heard from the media that a board member who had previously taken a leave of absence to write a report for the board is now being recommended as the new CAO.

McMullan's claim elicited an interjection from St. Catharines regional Coun. Andy Petrovski who demanded to know who the member of the media "who's spreading this kind of rumour."

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# Living with a little less

**CHERYL CLOCK**  
QMI Agency Niagara

A case of Pepsi sits in a corner of her living room. More bottles of pop are tucked away in a hatch. If food runs short, if her minimum wage, part-time-work paycheck doesn't add up due to the grocery store, soft drinks are her backup meal plan.

Every other week, 36-year-old Tanya Willick buys groceries. She makes sure there's fresh food in the fridge when her six-year-old son, Gram, stays for the week. She shares custody with her ex-husband.

On those weeks, they eat well. Ham. Carrots. Potatoes. Fruits and vegetables. It's important to cook good, hearty meals, she says. Sometimes a friend drops off a few groceries. And on the odd Friday night, mom and son might stop at in at father's restaurant in the Falls for fish and chips.

"I know he's getting good food," she says.

The weeks in between, she eats leftovers and saves what she can for Gram's next stay. To save on food, she drinks carbonated meals.

It's not as dire as it sounds, she says.

"I have in my head it doesn't matter," says Tanya. She is not complaining. Not at all. When it's suggested to her that pop isn't really a meal replacement, she smiles and shrugs.

"I don't feel hungry," she says. "I go to work. I don't need to eat at work. It's my routine. Go to work, come home, shower, go to bed, get up." Simple as that.

On this day, she sits in the living room at her basement apartment in Chippawa and talks about making ends meet. About living below a line we call poverty.

Tanya works four days a week for minimum wage, at a rubber factory in St. Catharines.

Rent, food, Gram's medication for ADHD, cellphone, car insurance and gas to get her to work—they all eat away at her income.

She has some help: the before-and-after school care for Gram is fully subsidized; so is a portion of her rent. She has no Internet or cable.

Still, the end-of-month math doesn't "totter up" ad.

"It's hard to budget what you don't have," she says.

"I'm not lazy. I try to work as much as I can. It still doesn't get me any farther."

Sometimes, she'll borrow a few bucks from her father, but that's it. "I don't ask anyone else," she says.

Sometimes, she'll get a cash advance off her credit card, but only if she can't get it back by the next paycheck.

Yet in Tanya's life, poverty is about more than dollars. It's about creativity. Humour. And frustration. It's about learning to accept help. Humility. And hope. It's about sometimes having to ask for money and accepting the kindness of others. And it's about understanding the simple priorities of life.

Poverty is all around her. She just chooses to look beyond it.

In her living room, it's in the padded blue sofa and matching arm chair. Someone else's castaways she found on the side of the road.

"It was raining," says Tanya, showing a slight grin. "I just classify that as they were getting washed."

It's in the lunch that came from a friend. The veneer-and-particle-board TV unit, given to her by a man from her last apartment. (She moved because laundry there was costing her \$5 a load.) It's in her son's video games, second-hand from friends whose children have outgrown them.

It's in her clothes. The jeans she's wearing are the maternity pants she wore when she was pregnant with Gram. "I would have kept the overalls, but they were a little stretched," she says, laughing.

Her black sweater with white blouse collar is a hand-me-down from a friend.

If Gram has new clothes, they're either a gift from Tanya's mother. His winter coat, boots, hat and mitts came from the Salvation Army's Niagara Orchard Community Church donation drive.

And though he thinks the big guy in red brought him Christmas gifts, Santa was otherwise known as the Sally Ann.

"I want everything for him, but I can't," she says. "I just want him to be happy."

With that, she stands up and smiles. "Come see my bedroom," she says.

Tanya walks down a narrow hallway, past the kitchen. First room on the right is her bedroom.

In one corner, there's a TV sitting on top of four all-season tires, stacked neatly one on top of

each other. When the winter tires come off her 2003 Neon — her current source of financial frustration — they'll replace the all-seasons as bedroom decor.

Yet, the piece de resistance is the bedroom fixture that prompts her friends to giggle and ask, "Do you really sleep in it?" — a fire engine red Lightning McQueen bed complete with matching sheets.

It was her son's. She got it in the divorce, and when Gram outgrew it she claimed it and saved up enough to buy him an Ikea bunk.

Gram's bedroom is at the end of the hall. Books stacked from floor to ceiling are second-hand. Tanya found the football-shaped toy box, beside the dumpster at her old apartment. And a large cardboard box-turned-playhouse was an acquisition from work.

When she has her son, Tanya works regular 30-hour-a-week shifts. The weeks she doesn't, she'll work extra hours if they're offered to her. But that doesn't happen too often.

On those weeks, she'll skip breakfast, maybe have a Pepsi on her lunch break. Dinner is maybe a leftover that won't keep until Gram is with her again, then bed.

Sometimes, a friend will invite her over for dinner.

Poverty is about being matter-of-fact. About making things work. It's about keeping busy. And it's about pride.

Pride in making it on her own. In the late 1980s, she moved out of her childhood home to live with the guy who's now her ex-husband. She drove flatbed long haul into the U.S. Texas, Florida, Minnesota. She would be gone for a week, come home long enough to do laundry, then head out on the road again.

Money was good. Life was good.

Tanya got married, and when Gram was born she became a stay-at-home mom.

Problems began in 2011 when the couple separated. Tanya had no job.

Long haul was out of the question. Driving a truck shorter distances wasn't an option either, because weather, traffic and other factors made it too unpredictable whether she could be back home in time to pick up Gram from day-care or with a high school education at best, good-paying jobs weren't exactly abundant.

A little help, help from a friend and a lot of determination landed her a job.

"It's my own money," she says. "It's not just handed to me."

"When I get a cheque, it's something I've earned." Poverty takes creativity.

See **TANYA** on Page 9

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## TANYA

## Woman lives in poverty

From Page 8

A few weeks ago, she was worried she wouldn't be able to get to work in a snowstorm and feared she would lose a day's wage. So she drove there early in the morning when the roads were clear, slept in her car in the parking lot, and made it to work on time.

If life ever seems like too much of a struggle, she thinks of Gram.

"In my heart, I know I'm working for the things I can work for," she says.

"I'm happy, I'm sad when I don't have Gram. But I'm happy."

Would more money make her happier?

Tanya pauses to consider. Yes, she would be able to save for Gram's education.

Anything else?

Another pause.

"It would mean I'd be able to do extras with Gram. Maybe a day at Canada's Wonderland."

She shrugs. "Something that I can say, look, I'm paying for it."

She pauses again. It would be hard to live on less money, but more isn't the answer to everything either, she says.

"The people closest to her know her struggles, but it doesn't define her."

"I don't really tell anyone," she says. "As long as I'm happy, and you can go to work smiling, no one knows."

Tanya is happy. Rich in ways beyond money. She has Gram. Her best friend, Cindy. And an appreciation of the simple (and free) things in life.

To illustrate her point, she shares a picture of Gram inside his cardboard box house. The biggest smile is spread across his face.

Last summer, she helped him set up a lemonade stand. He sold cookies and drinks for \$1 during a ball tournament and made himself \$250. He donated half to the Alzheimer Society, and the rest went into his bank account.

So really, who needs the Wonderlands of the world, she muses.

"There's always a park."

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **SUMMER VISITS:** Port Colborne mom and daughter anxious for Mya's return

## N.Y. visitor a breath of Fresh Air

GREG FURMINGER  
Tribune Staff

Their worlds are completely different: One lives among the trees and green lawns of Port Colborne; the other in the concrete jungle of New York City.

Yet, the lakeside city's nine-year-old Hailey Atyeo-Sherk and her friend Mya Bailey of Brooklyn, also 9, get along like sisters each time they're together.

Hailey anxiously awaits the August arrival of the friend she made when her mom, Alecia, chose to become a Fresh Air Fund host parent a few years ago.

"She's the only child, so it's been nice to have someone else around," said Atyeo, whose expecting her own second child in September.

"It's like having another daughter in the house," she said of when Mya visits. Haillie and her mom last year welcomed a second girl, eight-year-old Yvette Rodriguez, to fulfill a need not met by volunteer hosts.

"They didn't have a lot of people sign up to be hosts, Atyeo said, but while suggesting things may be different this year because four of her friends have expressed an interest.

"It's a good experience. You learn about their lifestyle and they learn about yours."

The first time Mya arrived she locked all the windows and closed the curtains. She soon became more comfortable in Port Colborne's safe environment

through playing outside, swimming at the quarry and going to the beach — all new experiences to her.

Atyedo said to qualify as a volunteer host — there is no compensation — a home inspection and a background criminal check were completed.

"It's a pretty easy process," she said.

"They try to match kids by age and gender, unless you have a preference."

Mya will be returning for a month-long stay in August, although Fresh Air Fund visits tend to be only one or two weeks.

"It's always sad to see her go," Atyeo said.

Added Haillie: "Last time I cried."

Still, the two keep in regular

phone contact with Mya, and often exchange photos through the mail.

The not-for-profit Fresh Air Fund agency since 1877 has provided free summer experiences in the country to more than 1.8 million New York City children from low-income communities. Nancy Salvage, chair of the Fresh Air Fund program for Port Colborne, Wainfleet and Fort Erie, said visiting children from New York City's five boroughs tend to become part of their host families.

"They want them to stay as long as they can."

The Fresh Air Fund tries to get a hold of discounted or free tickets to local attractions to keep visitors entertained, but often enough they are dazzled by local greenery, be it a trip to a local

farm or the sandy shores of Lake Erie.

The first arrivals are expected by bus on June 30. Salvage usually has about 20 host families a year.

"I'm always happy to get calls, even if people are unsure they want to take part," she said. "It's usually about this time that families start thinking about summer."

To learn more or sign up, she can be reached at 905-835-0442 or by e-mail at nancy.salvage@sympatico.ca.

The Fresh Air Fund contact for the Welland area is Rebecca Czerlau, who can be e-mailed at rebecca.czerlau@gmail.com.

First-time visitors are aged six to 12.

They can be re-invited by host families until they're 18.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## POLITICS

# Tax firms to pay for GO: NDP

RAY SPITERI  
(QMI Agency Niagara)

New Democrats would hike corporate income taxes to help pay for their transit plan, which includes bringing regular GO train service to Niagara.

"Everyone has to come to the table. The middle class who pay the freight for the majority of programs that we have in this province are feeling the squeeze and it shouldn't be all on the backs of that sector of people," Welland NDP MPP Cindy Forster said during a press conference at the train station on Bridge St. in Niagara Falls Thursday.

"We think that if business is going to increase in the Niagara region, that corporate Niagara, corporate Ontario needs to come to the plate with respect to some of that funding."

Forster and Niagara Falls NDP MPP Wayne Gates were joined by several Niagara politicians and business leaders to outline their support for regular GO commuter rail service in Niagara.

This week, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said

she supports a "modest" increase to corporate taxes to enhance transit options in Ontario.

Neither Gates or Forster talked about what the increase would be or how much it would bring in.

Forster said Horwath will roll out the party's funding model in its platform in the future.

Gates said the Liberal government has spent billions on transit across Ontario over the years, but hasn't focused enough on Niagara.

"We have the falls here, where we get 12 million... tourists a year. You have Niagara-on-the-Lake. You have Fort Erie. We need to get our fair share of the dollars that are going to be invested in Ontario and it should include GO right here in Niagara."

The mayors of all 12 Niagara municipalities are calling for regular GO train service in the region.

It will be the hot-button issue when they meet with provincial ministers during Niagara Week at Queen's Park next month.

See GO on Page 12



## PORT COLBORNE

City of Port Colborne  
New Port Colborne Operations Centre Project  
Notice of Public Information Centre No. 3

The City of Port Colborne has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to complete a functional preliminary design for the New Operations Centre which will combine the Central Operations Facility and the Parks Division. The City wishes to examine options to meet current and future maintenance operations demands and to provide a working environment consistent with other City operations.

The study is being conducted in compliance with the Municipal Engineers Association "Municipal Class Environmental Assessment" guidelines. The study is being conducted in compliance with Schedule "C" of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. A key component of the study will be consultation with interested stakeholders. Three Public Information Centres will be held to provide interested parties the opportunity to review and discuss issues related to the project, including existing conditions, an assessment of alternative locations, selection of the preferred alternative location and environmental conditions.

As part of the public consultation for this project a Public Information Centre is being planned to provide interested parties with an opportunity to review the identification and assessment of the preferred location identified by the project's Technical Advisory Committee. The third of three Public Information Centres is to be held as follows:

Date: Monday, May 12, 2014  
Time: 5:00pm – 6:30pm  
Location: Council Chambers/Committee Room 3  
City of Port Colborne  
66 Charlotte Street  
Port Colborne, Ontario  
L3K 3C8

Those attending will have an opportunity to meet with the Project Team, review the study scope and discuss issues related to the project, including existing conditions, environmental considerations and the considerations that have led to the preferred site selection.

If you are unable to attend the Public Information Centre, but have comments or questions regarding the project, please contact:

Jim Huppunen, A.Sc.T.  
Manager of Engineering Services  
City of Port Colborne  
66 Charlotte Street  
Port Colborne, Ontario  
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Phone: 905-835-2900 Ext. 221  
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St. Catharines - Day Program Lifetime Learning Centre, 535 Lake Street - Room 104	Wednesday, May 7 1:00 p.m.
Niagara Falls - Evening/Wknd Oakwood Park Lodge 6747 Oakwood Drive - Garden Room	Saturday, May 10 10:00 a.m.

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ GO

## NDP would hike corp. tax to help pay for GO

MIKE DIBATISTA / QMI AGENCY/NAGARA

Niagara Falls NDP MPP Wayne Gates and Welland NDP MPP Cindy Foster held a press conference at the train station on Bridge St. in Niagara Falls Thursday to outline their support for regular GO commuter rail service to Niagara.



From Page 11

"Part of what we're going to Niagara Week for is to say Jeff's sit down, let's do a serious business case," said Niagara Region Chair Gary Burroughs.

"Two weeks ago, two of us were in Kitchener, saw their business case, saw why it made sense."

"The province, we need them to sit

down. We need Metrolinx. We have met with Metrolinx twice over the last two years, not successfully. Now, I believe the pressure has been put on. They want it to work — they've done the plans, they have the information."

St. Catharines Liberal MPP Jim Bradley said the Liberal Party is the only one that can be trusted to expand

seasonal GO train service to regular scheduled trains in Niagara.

The environment minister said the government is building the necessary infrastructure, while the other parties' record of cancelling transit service and ignoring transit expansion make them unreliable partners.

"I am working with Metrolinx, the minister of transportation, the Region and other area leaders to secure service improvements in the near future," said Bradley.

"I believe there are no impediments to GO rail service that cannot be overcome. Freight train track priority, conflicts with Seaway shipping — these can all be accommodated."

"With a united Niagara voice, we can do this. I'm confident it will happen."

The new James St. GO station in Hamilton is a necessary first step for Niagara GO rail service — and it is being built by the province, he said.

While the NDP talks a good game, the last time they were in power, they didn't expand GO service, said Bradley. In fact, he said they cancelled the GO train to Barrie. That service has since been restored by the Liberal government.

He said the Progressive Conservatives were in power for eight years and didn't focus on GO expansion, instead choosing to pour concrete into the tunnelling that was underway for a subway in Toronto.

Two weeks ago, Tory transportation critic Jeff Yurek told QMI Agency Niagara the GO issue is "something we would definitely be open to discussing with Niagara stakeholders."

This week, a spokesman for PC Leader Tim Hudak said: "We don't have anything to add to this from Jeff's comments."

"Nothing has changed in our position as a result of the NDP announcing they want to increase taxes."

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**■ FORT ERIE:** Groups aim to 'bring horse racing into the provincial gaming strategy'

## Partnership bodes well for track

**SARAH FERGUSON**  
QMI Agency Niagara

A newly formed partnership could ensure horse racing in Fort Erie for years to come.

Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp., the provincial government and the Ontario Racing Commission announced April 25 that they have teamed up to form the Ontario Horse Racing division to provide a sustainable future for the horse racing industry.

OLG spokesperson Tony Bitonti said the announcement means all parties involved aim to "bring horse racing into the provincial gaming strategy."

The partnership will give racetracks with OLG slots facilities, live race dates and five-year funding under the Horse Racing Partnership Plan, an option for leases with a guaranteed term to 2019.

But that five-year lease agreement doesn't apply to Fort Erie because it no longer has a slots facility.

"Right now, there is no possibility (of a five-year lease agreement for Fort Erie) because it doesn't have a slots facility," Bitonti said.

"As part of our modernization plan, we had to look at all of our properties. We did determine around the border facility that there was too much product (too many gaming facilities) in the Fort Erie and Niagara Falls area," he added.

With a casino a short distance down the QEW in Niagara Falls, Bitonti said the slots facility at Fort Erie's racetrack was no longer viable. Changes in the last decade, such as the decline in the U.S. dollar and a smoking ban have also con-

tributed to a decrease in visitors to Fort Erie's slots-at-racetrack program before it closed in 2012.

Other racetracks that will not have a guaranteed five-year lease agreement include tracks in Windsor and Sarnia, where slots-at-racetrack program were also closed.

What will encourage traffic at the Fort Erie racetrack and other tracks across Ontario is the OLG's support through increased marketing initiatives, research and responsible gambling programs.

Bitonti said the OLG will publicize and cross-promote horse racing in casinos across the province.

"For all those years we've had slots-at-racetrack programs, horse racing was horse racing and the slots were the slots. But we're doing something different this time and working together," Bitonti said. "Television and digital signs will be used in gaming facilities in Niagara Falls and across the province to promote horse racing at Ontario's racetracks."

"We want to make sure anyone in our gaming facilities knows that racing is happening," Bitonti said.

"We're also doing research to find out what people like about horse racing to attract new customers," he added.

The OLG and the Horse Racing division will "work within current provincial and federal laws to explore new horse-themed lottery and gaming and wagering products."

John Snobelen, interim director of the Ontario Horse Racing division, said there will likely be a few "bumps in the road" over the next five years while the Ontario Horse Racing division works to sustain

the horse racing industry.

"There will be a lot of adjustments we need to make. But I think this is something other jurisdictions will do," Snobelen said.

"In five years, we will have a

bigger, more robust racing industry to attract an international audience."

Snobelen believes horse racing "is an important employer in the province" that's important to preserve.

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sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca



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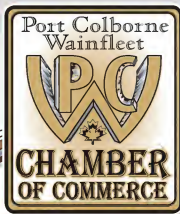


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# CHAMBER NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
of the PORT COLBORNE-WAINFLEET  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
76 Main St. West, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3V2  
905-834-9765 • office@pcwchamber.com

## President's Awards Reception Southern Tier Mayor's Luncheon

The 2013 President's Awards Reception went off without a hitch on Wednesday, April 2. Over 175 guests filled the Italian Hall to honour the remarkable individuals who help make up the communities of Port Colborne and Wainfleet.

Thank you to all those who submitted the nominations, the nominees for being such wonderful people, and the community for showing your support. We look forward to celebrating again next year.

A special thank-you to all the sponsors: Grant Thornton LLP, City of Port Colborne, Canadian Tire, RBC Royal Bank, TD Toronto Dominion Bank, Jungbunzlauer, A.B. White's Insurance Brokers and InPort News.



Left to right: James Brennan, Grant Thornton LLP, Title Sponsor; Chris Pezoulas & Mila Paperno, The Honey Bee Store, New Business of the Year; Nancy Salvage, Citizen of the Year; James Eyles & Wayne Elliott, Raw Materials Company, Business of the Year; Ayla Jukosky Jr., Youth Citizen of the Year; Pamela Koudis, Photography By Pamela, Women in Business; Savannah Prokopetz, Youth Citizen of the Year; Larry & Cathy Boggio, Citizen of the Year; John Maloney, President Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce.



The Southern Tier Mayor's Luncheon jointly sponsored by the Chambers of Commerce from the 6 municipalities was held on Friday March 28th. The Mayors of Port Colborne, Wainfleet, Pelham, Welland, Fort Erie and Niagara Falls made presentations.


### Upcoming Events

**May 28th 5:00pm - 7:00pm • Business After Five**

Hosted at: Canada's Best Value Inn, 10134 Hwy # 3 Port Colborne

**June 5th 11:30am - 1:00pm • The State of Communities Luncheon**

Hosted at: The Sugarloaf Marina Pavilion 3 Marina Rd, Port Colborne.

Speakers: Mayor Badawey & Mayor Jeffs  Desjardins  
Celine populiste Welland

**June 13th 5:00pm - 7:00pm • Lobster & Laughs**

Hosted at: The Sugarloaf Marina Pavilion 3 Marina Rd, Port Colborne.

Drinks @ 6:00PM, Dinners @ 7:00PM, Comedy @ 9:00PM

**June 25th 5:00pm - 7:00pm • Business After Five**

Hosted by: Lucy's Cafe & Catering 90 Nickel St. Port Colborne.

**November 6th 4:00pm - 7:30pm • Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce Fall Tradeshow**

Italian Canadian Cultural Centre 223 Bell St. Port Colborne. \$75.00 per booth.



# CHAMBER NEWS

## Spotlight on Chamber Members

The President's Awards Reception provided the opportunity for several local businesses to be showcased underlining their contribution to our local, regional and national economy. One of these was NorCliff Farms Inc owned by Nick and Nina Secord.



Fiddleheads produced on NorCliff Farms

### Out with the old and in with the new... Logo that is!

The Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to submit your design of a new Chamber logo! We are looking for a creative professional to take on the challenge in exchange for in-kind recognition and advertising with the Chamber for a year! Want to promote your business through the Chamber at no cost for one year? Help us in designing a new Chamber logo!

#### What you will receive:

- A banner ad on our website, 1 year free.
- An eblast announcing the winning profession/business.
- Your professional/business will be included in the quarterly Newsletter as the premier designer of the logo.
- Your name in the official "New Logo" announcement in the newspaper.
- 1 free ad space in our new year, 2015 directory.

#### Contest Rules:

The deadline to have your logo submitted is June 1st 2014. Copyright material is prohibited. The new logo has to be similar in colour to what we have on our website [www.pcwchamber.com](http://www.pcwchamber.com).

Contact us @ 905-834-9765 or email office@pcwchamber.com

## BUSINESS AFTER 5:00

### January Business After 5:00

The Clinic on Elm showcased their new location at 380 Elm St. on January 22nd. This clinic is now a designated OHIP Physiotherapy Clinic and specializes in chiropractic and massage therapy services.



Left to right: David Cavella, Kari Tattersall, Mike Koebel and clinic owners Dr Jim Cousineau and Sherrin Cousineau

### February Business After 5:00

JB Fashions has the styles you are looking for at affordable prices. Betty Konec and her daughter Julie Longaphie owners of the stylish and funky boutique hosted the February Business After 5:00



Left to right: Betty Konec and her daughter Julie Longaphie

### March Business After 5:00

Creative design by Think Ink Design & Print and picturesque photos by Photography by Pamela were displayed at the March Business After 5:00 by these two talented business owners.



Left to right: Candace Amstrong, Pamela Koudis and John Maloney



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# CHAMBER NEWS

## January New Member Breakfast

Sandra Summerhayes from Sandra Summerhayes & Associates spoke at the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce New Member Breakfast held at Jericho House.

She spoke about the advantages of networking and how it can benefit the bottom

line of any business. Our new Chamber Members had the opportunity to introduce themselves and speak about the services and products each of their individual businesses provides.

This event was generously sponsored by BMO and Inport News.



New members Francis Chiavetti from The Investors Group and Candace Armstrong from Think Ink Design & Print

## March Chamber's Quarterly Breakfast

Chamber President, John Maloney welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked our host Port Cares Reach Out Centre and our event sponsor Inport News.

Our keynote speaker for the morning was safety specialist Corola Hicks-Mittag from Workplace Safety Group.

Chamber Members were educated on the

upcoming changes in the Ministry of Labour Worker and Supervisor training required by July 1st. Companies were brought up to speed on what an MOL inspector is looking for when entering a company to do an inspection. Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the health and safety hierarchy of a company, concepts of due diligence and the internal



Left to right: Stephanie Babin, Corola Hicks-Mittag and John Maloney

responsibility system.

Stephanie Babin Vice President thanked Corola and presented her

with a gift of appreciation for sharing her expertise with our members.

**Members in the News:** Congratulations to Stephanie Babin (The Burke Group) Sam Bellhouse, (Evolution Window Films) & Mark A Melloni, (Urgo to Purge) for winning the 11th Annual 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards! Congratulations to Lou Nieuwand co-owner and operator of Whiskey Run Golf Club for winning the Jimmy Rose Lifetime Achievement Award! for his contribution to basketball.

## February Business of the Month

Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes Raw Materials Inc. as February's Business of the Month.

RMC has been a leading North American bat-

tery recycler for twenty years and is the only company in North America currently capable of completely recycling primary single use alkaline batteries.



Left to right: Jacek Janowski Executive Director Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber, James Twiss Presidents of Raw Materials Company and John Maloney Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber President.

## March Business of the Month

Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes A.B. Whites' Insurance Brokers as March's Business of the Month.

This award recognizes an outstanding business that demonstrates entrepreneurial achievement and community leadership.



Sandy White and his staff at A.B. Whites' Insurance Brokers and John Maloney Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber President.



Heather Price

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# CHAMBER NEWS

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## State of the Region Roundtable



On Friday, April 4th, Regional Chair Gary Burroughs hosted and chaired a roundtable discussion with Chambers from throughout the Niagara Region.

Port Colborne - Wainfleet Chamber President John Maloney collaborated with the other chambers on future initiatives.

## Chambers of Commerce of Niagara Meet

The Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce hosted a meeting with representatives of other Niagara Region Chambers at Jericho House in Wainfleet.

Recently appointed Niagara Region Economic Development Business Attraction Manager Tim Reynolds briefed everyone on what his focus will be for business in Niagara. Tim believes that emphasis should be on ensuring business in Niagara stays here; that skill sets/shortfalls for new

and existing business be addressed immediately and that we actively pursue new growth from Greater Toronto and the U.S.

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network emphasized the need for an integrated regional transit system linking our rural and urban communities while reducing barriers to access public transit. Such would improve quality of life and economic growth in Niagara.

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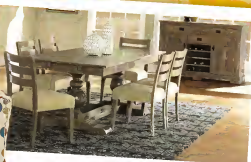
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# Historic railway linked Niagara's lakeshores

Q: At the corner of Morrison St. and Stanley Ave. in Niagara Falls, there is a monument to a railway. The monument faces onto Morrison, but if you look in the potholes on Stanley northbound there appear to be tracks there. They are so close to the surface. Where did they come from and go to?

A: The monument commemorates the Erie and Ontario Railway, the first railroad in what is now Ontario.

Niagara Falls official historian Sher-

man Zavitz said the railway was primitive compared to today's trains. It was pulled by horses, usually in tandem, and consisted of carriages that ran on wooden rails with iron strips.

Construction of tracks between Chippawa and Queenston started in 1835 and was completed in 1841. The route through Niagara Falls ran along today's Stanley Ave.

Zavitz said the goal was to connect the steamboat operations on the lakes. A steamboat would come from

Lake Ontario into the Niagara River, but could only get as far as Queenston. Goods were transferred onto the railway and taken to Chippawa, where a steamboat on the Niagara River could again be used to get to Lake Erie.

"It was a transfer line used mainly in the summer," Zavitz said.

In 1854, the line was relocated closer to the Niagara River and converted to steam engines with metal tracks. Eventually, it was extended from Chippawa south to Fort Erie and from Queenston north to Niagara-on-the-Lake, connecting the two lakes.

The line changed names and owners over the years, and at one point was run by the Michigan Central Railroad. Zavitz said in the 1920s, the line between Chippawa and Fort Erie was gradually abandoned, the land sold and the tracks ripped up. By the 1950s, the same thing happened between Queenston and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Which brings us to the potholes on Stanley Ave.

If what you are seeing is indeed the remnants of a track or rail, Zavitz said it's unlikely it came from the old Erie and Ontario Railway because of all the street work that's happened since 1854. There was at one time an old streetcar line that crossed Stanley Ave., but those lines were removed. Could a section have been mislaid? It's not known for sure, but it's possible, given that when Ferry St. was rebuilt a few years ago, old streetcar tracks were discovered.

Q: I'm a resident of Welland and drive by the Walker remediation project located at the old Atlas solid waste dump off of Woodlawn



MIKE ORBATISTA / QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

The cairn at the corner of Morrison St. and Stanley Ave. in Niagara Falls commemorates the first railway in Upper Canada, built in 1831.

and behind Rona nearly everyday. My question is, what is that black material they have been dumping there for months? There seems to be a continuous line of trucks in and out dumping this material, which coats the streets black.

A: The black material you saw was likely slag from Dofasco, said Mike Watt, vice-president of Walker Environmental Group. It's a byproduct of the steel-making process.

Watt said Walker owns its own street sweepers and makes every effort to keep the streets clean around the project.

"We very rarely get complaints, but when we do we react to them," he said. "The site superintendent is very careful to try to keep the neighbouring properties as clean as possible."

Watt said anyone who wants more information is welcome to

call 905-227-4142.

The Atlas Landfill Remediation Project was developed through a partnership between the City of Welland and Walker Environmental Group in 2010.

It turned an abandoned landfill used by the former Atlas Specialty Steels plant into a revenue stream for the City of Welland.

Walker Environmental agreed to pay for the multimillion-dollar remediation of the site, which the city was on the hook for. If it could use it for the disposal of non-hazardous solid waste from clean-up projects, brownfield sites and industrial sites throughout Niagara and the GTA.

Watt said the company has invested about \$12 million in the site, which has been open for the past three years. He said it will probably be filled up in three or four years.

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# IN BRIEF

## Jail time for arson, assault

Igniting a case of body spray at a construction site, causing more than \$100,000 in damage, resulted in a jail term for a St. Catharines man. Kristopher Waines appeared in an Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines Friday for sentencing on six charges, including arson and assaulting a police officer.

The 20-year-old was sentenced to one year in jail, which was reduced to 103 days behind bars after he was given credit for the time he spent in pre-trial custody.

Court heard Waines and two males ages 15 and 18 stole a case of Axe body spray from the Real Canadian Superstore on Louth St. on April 2, 2013, and went to a nearby construction site. Between 16 and 18 cans of the spray were placed behind the cab of an excavator and set on fire. Damage was pegged at more than \$100,000.

Waines told police he enjoyed lighting fires because it "calmed" him down. "He endangered himself and the other young men who were with him and he endangered the firefighters who came to fight the fire," said Judge David Harris, before imposing the jail term followed by probation for three years.

**Falls ferries put on ice**

The harsh winter had an impact on Hornblower Niagara Cruises. The company hopes to start ferrying tourists in the lower Niagara River mid-May.

After constructing two state-of-the-art catamarans at the base of falls during one of the harshest winter seasons in Canadian history, the company has begun testing its marine railway system in preparation for its inaugural season.

## Sex assault alleged

A 20-year-old Welland man faces a number of charges following allegations of sexual assault against a "young female."

Neither the age of the female nor the reason why she was in the company of the accused when the alleged offences took place will be made public in order to protect her identity, said Andrew Watson of the Niagara Regional Police child abuse unit.

Police said both parties are known to one another.

The offences are alleged to have taken place in Welland in February 2013. Police were notified this month.

On Friday police arrested Alex Thibault. He is charged with sexual assault, sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching. He remains in custody and is scheduled for a bail hearing in St. Catharines on Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Topsless woman in Falls mayor's office  
A topsless woman walked straight into Mayor Jim Diodati's office at city hall after noon Thursday.

Diodati said he wasn't in his office at the time and the topsless woman talked to his staff. He said the woman left on her own without incident. Visitors normally have to buzz in to reach the mayor's office, but Diodati said some

video work was being done in the area so the doors were left opened.

"She's a sex-trade worker and she has been in before to conduct challenges for her and her situation in her industry," he said. He said whenever the woman

has come to city hall in the past, he was not there.

"She lives at a motel in town and I've called and left her a message at the motel. When I leave a message I leave a date (indicating when he called). We've never had a chance to discuss her

concerns."

Diodati said although he won't likely be able to help her with her concerns because city hall does not handle sex-trade worker issues, he doesn't like to ignore his constituents.

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### Canal memorial site chosen

The Welland Canal Fallen

Workers Memorial will be located on the canal bank just north of the Welland Canals Museum in St. Catharines.

The site was chosen by the City of St. Catharines memorial task force, and means the city must entangle the lease it has with St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. The four draft designs are scheduled to be unveiled July 23, which is the 100th anniversary of the first death on the canal. The task force considered eight sites,

all beside or near the canal, and rated them for visibility, safety, traffic, accessibility, landscape design, parking, restrooms and potential for vandalism.

#### Project Ink charge dropped

Charges have been stayed against a woman swept up during the massive Project Ink cocaine bust in 2012.

Courtney Bryan, 34, of Toronto was facing an obstruction of justice charge.

She was arrested May 23, 2012, in the joint-forces investigation that also saw the arrest of alleged Niagara drug kingpin Nicola (Nick) Nero.

Federal prosecutor Peter Wengowski told a St. Catharines Superior Court judge Tuesday that the Crown was seeking a stay of the charge. A trial date set in May for Bryan will be nixed. Bryan was not present in court Tuesday. At the time of her arrest, police said Bryan's charges weren't

connected with the seizure of \$30 million in drugs but did arise out of the Project Ink investigation.

Nero is scheduled for trial on Sept. 8 with four co-accused. Police officer charged with fraud. A police officer from St. Catharines has been charged with fraud.

After obtaining information in January, the Hamilton Police fraud branch began investigating a 35-year veteran officer for fraudulent

submissions of benefit claims. As a result of the investigation, an arrest was made April 17. Jason Howard, 43, of St. Catharines, is charged with fraud under \$5,000.

The officer, a sergeant assigned to Division 3 of Hamilton Police Service, has been suspended from duty with pay.

He was released on a promise to appear and is scheduled to return to court May 20.

# SPOTLIGHT on service

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Skip Gillham

## SHIPS THAT PLY THE LAKES



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OF ALEX  
DUNCAN

The Empress of France was one of the gleaming white "Empress" ships that were part of the Canadian Pacific Steamships fleet. It had previously served the company as the Duchess of Bedford.

The vessel had been built at Clydebank, Scotland, and launched on Jan. 24, 1928. It began service before the end of June as a transatlantic steamer and served the company well until being requisitioned as a troop carrier in 1939. As such it travelled to India and Singapore with Allied soldiers and to Europe

with Canadian Army troops. It also served on the Mediterranean as the headquarters ship for Gen. Mark Clark. It is reported that Duchess of Bedford covered 413,000 miles and carried 150,000 passengers during the war years.

With peace, the vessel underwent a significant refit and re-entered service on Sept. 1, 1946, as Empress of France. As such, it sailed from Liverpool, England, to Quebec City and Montreal bringing travellers and families seeking a new life in Canada. During the

winter the ship stopped at Saint John, NB.

On Sept. 25, 1951, the Empress of France bought Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip to Canada for a Royal Tour of the country. Within two years her father, King George, would pass away and Princess Elizabeth would become the Queen.

Empress of France made 186 Atlantic voyages after the war but was retired and sold for scrap late in 1960. The vessel was taken to Newport, U.K. and dismantled during 1961.



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People often come to the store looking for products that will cleanse their colon, or detoxify their system. They have heard that regular colon or liver cleansing and other methods of detoxification can rid the body of pollutants, aid in weight loss, and prevent cancer.

The theory that over time the body can accumulate harmful toxins such as metals and pesticides is often perpetuated by the media and other advertisers. Proponents believe special treatments including herbals or supplements given orally, or as enemas, or special diets, can remove these toxins from the body.

Unfortunately there is no proof to support any of these claims. There is no special product or method that can rid the body of toxins.

The body is an amazing machine equipped with liver and kidneys that are responsible for filtering and eliminating toxins from the body.

Detoxification programs can actually be dangerous. They often include laxatives that can cause significant diarrhea resulting in fluid loss, and electrolyte imbalances. Some laxatives can worsen heart failure or cause kidney failure in people who have kidney disease.

Enemas and colonics can also lead to electrolyte imbalances and can even cause a perforated rectum. Some deaths have actually been reported with the use of coffee enemas.

For patients who want to optimize their health there are some simple much safer steps that can be taken. The first step for overweight patients is to lose weight by eating more fruits and vegetables and less refined sugar. Secondly, drinking a few glasses of water can help with weight loss and general health. However, it is not necessary to over do water intake either. The body closely regulates the amount of water in your system through homeostasis and your kidneys. Drinking too much can force you to the bathroom with increased frequency and not provide you with any other additional "health" benefit. Simple exercise like walking and some daily fresh air can improve mood and aid in weight loss as well.

For patients who want to take a supplement, there are some that can improve your health. Vitamin D, and Omega 3's have shown significant health benefits. Adults should take at least 1000 IU of vitamin D a day for bone health and cancer prevention. Omega 3's (EPA and DHA) have shown benefits for heart and brain health. An aspirin a day is also promoted for heart and stroke protection. Finally naturally occurring antioxidants that come in berries, green tea, and other naturally occurring sources can help with general overall health.

If you want to improve your health, it is best to avoid colon and liver cleanses and stick to the above mentioned strategies. Speak to your family physician or pharmacist if you would like to add in a supplement, and for advice on the best way to you "get healthy".

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# Sponsors help keep cars racing at area tracks

Who crossed the line first at the auto racing track: the driver or the pit crew?

In some cases, it's neither.

Without financial backing from sponsors, many cars that will be competing regularly on the southern Ontario and western New York racing circuit would be stuck parked in the garage on more than a few weeks' ends this summer.

Adam Leslie would probably find a way to continue racing if the sponsorship tag ran dry, but the 24-year-old general mechanic from Port Colborne doubts he would be competing more than once a week without the advertising decals adorning his sportsman car.

"If it wasn't for sponsors, most of us wouldn't be here or we would have a hard time making a go of it," said Leslie, who is heading into his fifth season competing in the sportsman division and ninth year in racing

overall.

While the regular at Merrittville Speedway in Thorold and at New Humberstone Speedway in Port Colborne is guaranteed \$100 each time he qualifies to race in a final and can earn \$1,200 for winning a feature, his idea of laughing all the way to the bank would be being close to breaking even at the end of the year.

"No, you don't do this if you want to make money," he said with a laugh, shaking his head.

It's a hobby, it's the most expensive hobby."

Pete Bicknell, Merrittville Speedway's co-owner and a 23-time track champion in the popular 358 modified class, said it's the love of the sport, not the money, that keeps drivers racing the southern Ontario and western New York circuit.

"We're racing as a sport. Most of the money comes from sponsors," he said of a hobby that attracts about 100 cars and upwards of 1,000 spectators to the

Thorold track Saturday nights throughout the summer.

"Instead of buying a set of golf clubs, you buy a set of tires," Bicknell said with a laugh.

John Mastroianni of Welland agrees that racing at the grassroots level is much closer to being a licence to lose money rather than the other way around.

"You can make a million in racing, but you have to start with two million," he quipped last Saturday at Merrittville's annual season test and tune session.

Mastroianni, a retired elementary school principal and one-time Welland city councillor, has been a principal involved in Mastroianni Racing for 10 years.

His role as the No. 1 supporter on a family race team that features his son Joey behind the wheel of a sportsman car doesn't include pit crew duties. "Are you kidding? I can't even fill up the tires," he

said with a laugh.

Too much rain overnight Friday and too little time during the day Saturday to dry out the track was anything but a winning combination for Merrittville Speedway.

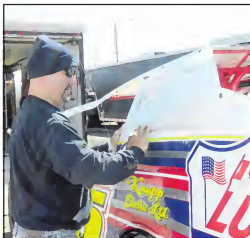
Opening night for the 63rd racing season at the Thorold track was cancelled shortly before noon after it became apparent the dirt track wouldn't be dry in time for the first heats of the night.

"If it was 95 degrees, it might have been different but it wasn't," said Jim Irvine, the track's public relations director.

Wind was also a factor in the decision to pull the plug on a three-division program featuring racing in the super sprint, sportsman and modified 358 divisions.

Opening night was only one of two visits the sprint cars will be making this season.

Irvine said with next Saturday night's schedule already set, the super sprints will return some time later in the season.



BERND FRANKS / STAFF PHOTO

Ken Leslie applies the sticker of a sponsor signed during the off-season to his son Adam's sportsman car at a test and tune session Saturday, April 19, 2014, at Merrittville Speedway in Thorold, Ont.

"The prints will be rescheduled," he said.

Sports editor Bernd Frank's column appears

Thursdays. He can be reached at 905-732-2414, ext. 263, or by e-mail at [bernd.frank@sunmedia.ca](mailto:bernd.frank@sunmedia.ca). Follow him on Twitter at [TribSportsGuy](https://twitter.com/TribSportsGuy).

May 1-7, 2014

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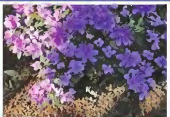

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## MAY 2

### DESSERT FASHION SHOW

The First Presbyterian Church Women in Port Colborne are hosting a dessert fashion show by ALIA n Tanjan from the Lundy's Lane Outlet Mall in Niagara Falls at 7 p.m. Admission \$7. Refreshments and door prizes. Call 905-834-7977 for tickets.

## MAY 3

### BOTTLE DRIVE

and yard and bake sale to aid the Port Colborne feline initiative Operation CatSnips, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Patrick's Church Hall,

123 King St. Donation drop-off is May 2, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

## MAY 5

### MOTHER'S DAY TEA

and Craft for Mommy or Grandma and Me at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy a cup of tea (or iced tea) and treats while making a craft with your mom or grandma to celebrate Mother's Day. Call 905-899-1277 by May 2 to register your attendance.

## MAY 8

### PHILOSOPHER'S CAFÉ

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 6:30 p.m. Drop by for a lively discussion. This month's topic is "Cosmos Reboot — The Future: All welcome.

## MAY 8, 9, 10, 11

### GREASE: THE MUSICAL

is presented by Lakeshore Catholic High School May 8, 9, 10 at 7 p.m. and May 11 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium, 150 Janet St., Port Colborne. General admission \$15; seniors/students \$10. Call 905-835-2451 for tickets or information.

Continued on Page 30

28th Annual

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# IMPORT DATEBOOK

From Page 28

## MAY 10

### CENOTAPH WALKATHON

hosted by Wainfleet Lions Club starts 9:30 a.m. at the Wainfleet Firefighters Memorial Hall. Pledge sheets are available at the township office, library, Wainfleet Avondale Donut Diner, Jackson's Auto Body and

Wellandport Home Hardware & Farm Supply Store. For more information, contact the Lions Clubs' Martin VanGool at 905-835-8423 or George DeRuyter at 289-820-6163.

## MAY 12

### PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL

Society meets at 7 p.m. Linda

Stanley will speak on a pictorial exhibit of the War of 1812. For more information call 905-834-4143.

## MAY 14

### SECOND WORLD WAR

Documentary Film Series at Port Colborne Public Library. 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free.

## MAY 21

### WII BOWLING FOR SENIORS

at Port Colborne Library. 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free.

## MAY 22

### GAME PALOOZA!

at Wainfleet Township Public Library. 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Children of all ages can drop-in to play Nintendo Wii and board games.

## MAY 23

### FAIR TRADE SOIREE

with the Deacons of Jazz at Roselawn Centre, 296 Fielden Ave., Port Colborne. 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$20, available at Ten Thousand Villages (905-

834-6292) or from Rosemary at 905-835-9729.

## MAY 24

### ROAST BEEF SUPPER

at Morgan's Point United Church, 11430 Lakeshore Rd., Wainfleet. Settings at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Adults \$15, children under 10 \$5. By reservation only. Call 905-899-0960 for tickets.

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If weight loss were as simple as reducing calories and running the treadmill we would all be thin. But weight loss can be effortless when we adopt a new way of eating and take a couple of Health Canada licensed nutritional supplements that get to the root of the weight problem.

### CLA PLUS Fat that Burns FAT

CLA PLUS contains conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) and green tea extract. CLA is a fat that safely melts fat away. In a 90-day, double-blind, placebo-controlled study published in 2000 in the Journal of Nutrition, CLA users taking 5000mg of CLA per day had an average weight reduction of seven pounds and an increase in lean muscle with NO diet change. CLA

in a dose of 8000mg per day was also given to a group of post menopausal women and they lost weight with no diet change. Just think if they would have eaten a fat burning diet too! **CLA PLUS** also contains green tea extract to super charge weight loss and rev up fat burning by enhancing metabolism.

### Belly Fat Busting GLUCOsmart

Belly fat is a stubborn problem. No end of sit-ups and crunches make it disappear. We know that insulin is implicated in belly fat weight gain in both men and women. Elevated insulin promotes weight gain, diabetes and excess belly fat. Skin tags are an early sign of pre-diabetes. Thankfully, busting belly fat and normalizing insulin just got easier. The nutrient ChiroSitol (pronounced "kur-au-sitol"), found in **GLUCOsmart** researched in over 30 studies at the Virginia Medical School, works to keep blood sugar in the healthy range. **GLUCOsmart** halts sugar cravings. But where **GLUCOsmart** really shines is in fighting belly fat in both men and women. Combine **CLA PLUS** along with **GLUCOsmart** and drink **SLIM-T** containing Garcinia and weight loss will be effortless.



When you purchase Glucosmart you will receive my book **A Smart Women's Guide to Weight Loss** FREE (a \$24.95 value).  
[www.hormonehelp.com](http://www.hormonehelp.com)

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